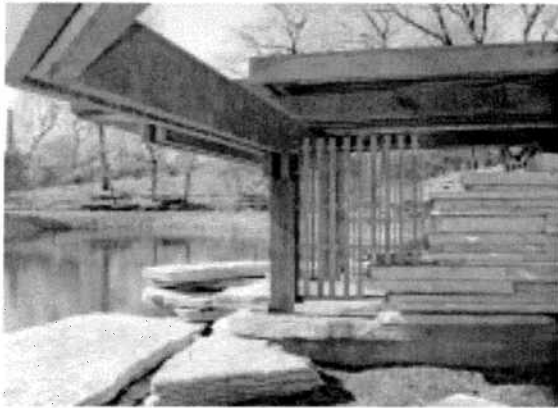


# LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



## Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool

At the North End of Lincoln Park Zoo at Fullerton Parkway

Preliminary Landmark recommendation approved by  
the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, May 2, 2002

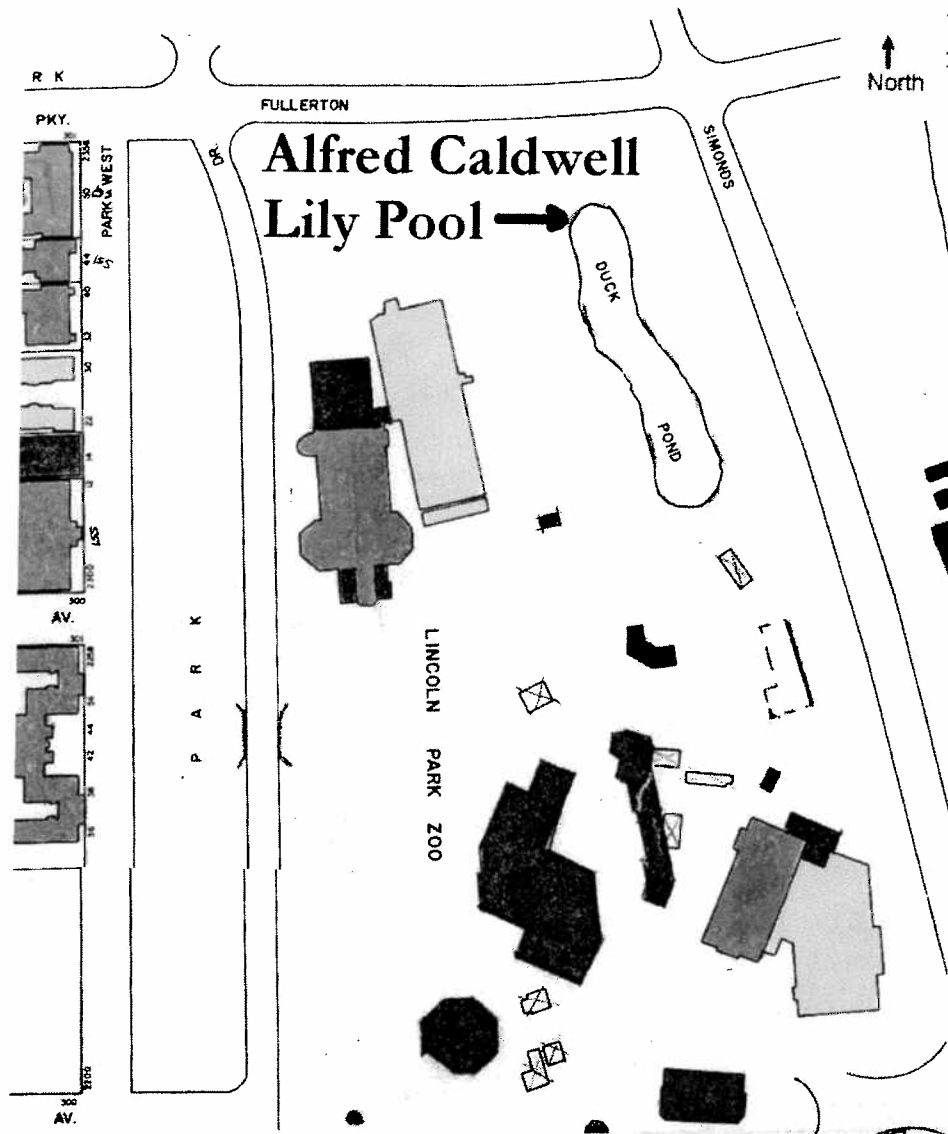


**CITY OF CHICAGO**

**Richard M. Daley, Mayor**

**Department of Planning and Development**

**Alicia Mazur Berg, Commissioner**



**Cover:** The pavilion and council ring are shown above a view of the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, looking north.

**Above:** Located at the north end of Lincoln Park Zoo, the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool has a street entrance on Fullerton Parkway to the north.

*The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. It is responsible for recommending to the City Council that individual buildings, sites, objects, or entire districts be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law. The Commission is staffed by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, 33 N. LaSalle St., Room 1600, Chicago, IL 60602; (312-744-3200) phone; (312-744-2958) TTY; (312-744-9140) fax; web site, <http://www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks>.*

*This Preliminary Summary of Information is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation proceedings. Only language contained within the designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.*

# **ALFRED CALDWELL LILY POOL**

## **AT THE NORTH END OF LINCOLN PARK ZOO AT FULLERTON PARKWAY**

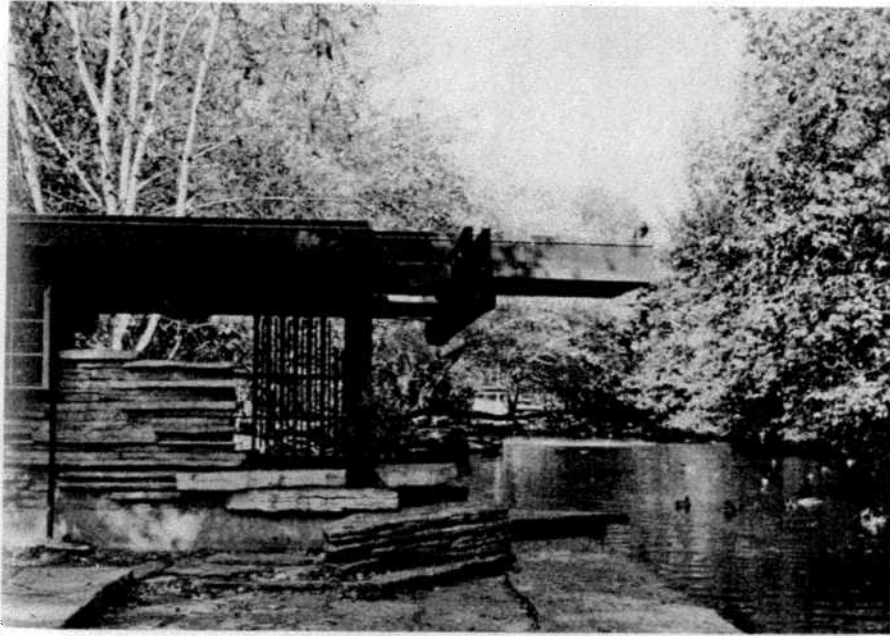
**BUILT: 1936-1938**

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: ALFRED CALDWELL (1903-1998)**

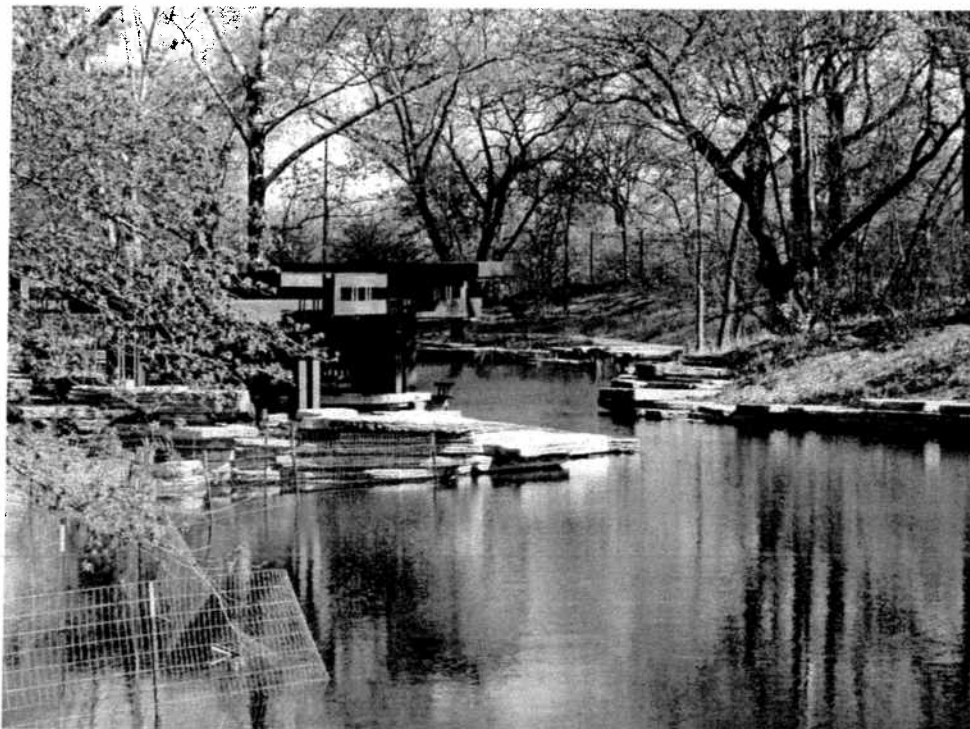
The Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool sits within Lincoln Park, at the north end of Lincoln Park Zoo at Fullerton Parkway. Separated from the zoo by a winding walkway that leads down a small hill, the lily pool lies quietly in a one and one-half acre garden that was designed by landscape architect Alfred Caldwell in 1936 to provide a “hidden garden” for the people of Chicago. Constructed to resemble a river running through a great Midwestern prairie, the lily pool represents perhaps the clearest articulation of the vision of its creator and namesake, whose work in Chicago has helped define the “Prairie School” of landscape architecture, so named because of the common values it shared with Prairie School building architecture.

For years known as the “Rookery,” the lily pool was originally part of a Victorian garden built in 1889. Heated by the Lincoln Park Zoo power plant, the pool supported tropical species of water lilies and other aquatic plants. When the Victorian-style garden diminished in popularity, the lily pool deteriorated and fell into disrepair.

In 1937, as part of a Chicago Park District (CPD) improvement effort funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Alfred Caldwell redesigned the lily pool and its surrounding garden in a style inspired by Jens Jensen and Frank Lloyd Wright. Caldwell’s vision was that of an open, sunny environment that emulated a prairie stream.



**The Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool in 1940 (above) and as rehabilitated in 2002 (below), facing north with the pavilion on the left. The lily pool lies at the north end of Lincoln Park Zoo, off Fullerton Parkway. Designed and built from 1936 to 1938 as part of a Chicago Park District improvement effort funded by the WPA, the lily pool was designed by Alfred Caldwell in a “Prairie School” style inspired by Jens Jensen and Frank Lloyd Wright.**



To achieve this, an extensive and diverse plant palette was used to reflect the Midwestern landscape. Flagstone walks encircled the pool. A pavilion, a council ring (a circular stone bench symbolizing the council fires of native people in North America), an entrance gate, a waterfall, and stone outcroppings were incorporated around the lily pool. Caldwell characterized the landscape as “a cool, refreshing, clear place of trees and running water.” It is generally considered his finest effort and one of the most important historic landscapes in the city.

Without constant maintenance, the lily pool again deteriorated, although efforts were made in the 1960s to improve the site. They were not, however, always sensitive to the landscape’s historic character. Recently, the CPD and Friends of Lincoln Park have restored the lily pool to Caldwell’s original design, and today it once again provides a small piece of the prairie within the City of Chicago.

## **EARLY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN CHICAGO**

The profession of landscape architecture in North America owes its beginning to Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), whose designs included Central Park in New York with Calvert Vaux in the late 1850s and the U. S. Capitol Grounds in the 1870s. Olmsted, who rejected the name “landscape gardener” in favor of the title of “landscape architect,” was particularly interested in integrating functional public green space into city planning.

In Chicago, city parks grew out of a concern for health threats posed by a public cemetery at the lakefront, and the city set aside a 60-acre tract, named Lincoln Park in 1865. By 1869, the State of Illinois created—through three separate acts of legislation—the Lincoln, South, and West Park commissions. As CPD historian Julia Bachrach explains in *The City in a Garden*, “although the three park commissions operated independently, the overall goal was to create a unified park and boulevard system that would encircle Chicago.”

Between 1869 and 1900, the three commissions established several parks in Chicago. The Lincoln Park Commission commenced building Lincoln Park in the early 1880s. In the late 1880s and early 1890s, the South Park Commission built what are now known as Jackson and Washington parks and the Midway Plaisance. By 1877, the West Park Commission could see progress in building what are now known as Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas parks.

In 1888, Jens Jensen (1860-1951) began working as a laborer for the West Park Commission, and within seven years he became superintendent of Humboldt Park. It was Jensen, in particular, who articulated the landscape architecture of the Midwest and led the movement to save the unique natural features that gave Chicago and other cities of the region their distinctive character. Leonard K. Eaton, a Jensen biographer, writes that Jensen’s artistic objective “was to create landscapes which would set forth his own exceptionally strong concept of nature.”



Left: Jens Jensen (on left) and Alfred Caldwell (on right) c. 1930. Jensen (1860-1951) first articulated the landscape architecture of the Midwest and led the movement to save the unique natural features that gave Chicago and other cities of the region their distinctive character. Caldwell worked closely with Jensen and regarded him as more than just a symbol of what a landscape architect should be, but also as an “explicit guide” for the conduct of his own life.



Left: Prairie lilies, as photographed by Jens Jensen, 1913.

Below: Columbus Park waterfall, designed by Jens Jensen, 1935, was a predecessor to Caldwell’s waterfall at the lily pool.

The Prairie School of landscape architecture attempted to help build an appreciation for the beauty of the natural landscape and to encourage actions to protect what natural areas remained.



Jensen became a mentor to Caldwell, who was passionately influenced by Jensen's ideas—the lily pool landscape includes Jensen's signature council ring. Caldwell regarded Jensen as more than just a symbol of what a landscape architect should be, but also as an “explicit guide” for the conduct of his own life, according to Dennis Domer, Caldwell's biographer.

One other park commission was organized in these early years: the Special Park Commission, whose members included social reformers Graham Taylor and Charles Zueblin, businessman Clarence Buckingham, Prairie School architect Dwight H. Perkins, Jens Jensen, and fellow landscape architect Ossian Cole Simonds (1855-1931). Formed at the inspiration of reformer and photojournalist Jacob A. Riis of New York City, the Special Park Commission worked to create additional green space in Chicago's most densely populated areas, and was responsible for instituting playgrounds on public school property.

In 1902, the Special Park Commission opened McKinley Park, considered experimental in its combination of ball fields, a swimming lagoon, a playground, and changing rooms. The success of McKinley Park prompted the South Park Commission to open ten new parks in 1905, all with a variety of new facilities including field houses, where educational programs were held. That year, Jens Jensen was selected general superintendent and chief landscape architect of the West Park System. He renovated Humboldt, Garfield, and Douglas parks, using native plants and Prairie-style architectural elements, and opened many new small parks on the West Side before leaving the West Park Commission in 1920.

From 1900 to 1920 the Lincoln Park Commission created seven new parks and used landfill to add 275 new acres of land to Lincoln Park. Also during this time the South Park Commission began construction of Grant Park. All work on parks in Chicago was halted, however, at the beginning of the 1930s, when the Great Depression rendered all of Chicago's 22 independent park districts insolvent. By consolidating the districts in 1934 into the Chicago Park District, the city was able to receive \$82 million in federal funding through the WPA.

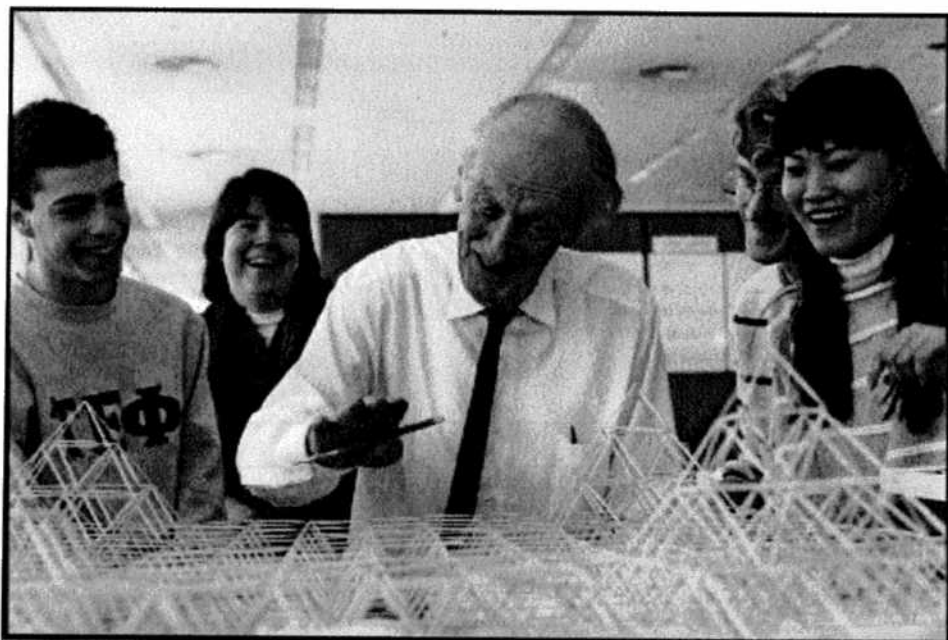
## **ALFRED CALDWELL (1903-1998)**

Alfred Caldwell was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 26, 1903. His family moved to Chicago in 1909, and he attended Ravenswood Elementary School and Lakeview High School. His high school science teacher was a noted botanist, Herman Silas Pepoon, who had written a book on the flora of Chicago. Inspired by Dr. Pepoon's teaching, Caldwell became interested in plants and their Latin names, which he used later in his illustrations of landscape plans for city parks.

In 1921, on the advice of landscape architect Charles Terrel, Caldwell enrolled at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to study landscape architecture. He lasted less than a year. In 1923 Caldwell eloped and married his 17-year-old fourth cousin, Virginia (“Geda”). In 1924 Caldwell began working for Jens Jensen on landscape jobs all over the Midwest, and while working on one Jensen project near Spring Green, Wisconsin, Caldwell stopped at Taliesin to meet Frank Lloyd Wright, who had already become a hero to him. He embarked on a friendship with Wright, frequently visiting Taliesin between 1927 and 1932.



Alfred Caldwell (1903-1998, left), moved to Chicago in 1909 and attended Lakeview High School where his science teacher was a noted botanist, Herman Silas Pepon, who had written a book on the flora of Chicago. Inspired by Dr. Pepon's teaching, Caldwell became interested in plants and their Latin names, which he used later in his illustrations of landscape plans for city parks, including the lily pool at Lincoln Park.



Caldwell (shown above, with students) taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology from 1945 to 1960 and became a legendary professor and had a powerful influence on the post-war generation of Chicago architects. While at IIT, Caldwell landscaped much of the school's campus, but resigned in 1960 to protest the dismissal of Mies van der Rohe as the school's architect.



Caldwell left Jensen on good terms in 1931, and began working for Chicago's South Park Commission in 1933. During this time, Caldwell's two children were born. He left Chicago in 1934 to go to Dubuque, Iowa, where he oversaw the landscaping and building of Eagle Point Park, which won a national WPA design award. Despite this, Caldwell was fired from his Iowa position in 1936, largely because the town wanted a local person in charge.

Returning to Chicago, Caldwell found himself unemployed, with a family to support, at the height of the Great Depression. The hard times seemed to galvanize Caldwell's political beliefs. He and his wife Geda became members of the Dill Pickle Club, a Chicago social group of "Bohemians, hobo intellectuals, poets, philosophers, and tale tellers" that met to foster free speech and expression. The meeting place for the Club had been established in 1917 at 22 Tooker Place, just south of the Newberry Library on Dearborn Street at Washington Square. To find the place where the club met, both the famous and the infamous were exhorted to squeeze "Thru the Hole in the Wall Down Tooker Alley to the Green Lite Over the Orange Door." A sign outside read "step high stoop low leave your dignity outside."

Caldwell was helped at this time by his old friend George Donoghue, then general superintendent of the CPD. Donoghue hired Caldwell to use WPA manpower to create natural, prairie-style public gardens, groves, and landscapes. Caldwell, known not only for his knowledge of plants but for his ability to rapidly draw intricate plans for park designs and plantings, became such a powerful influence on the Park District that its 1937 annual report is filled with Prairie School ideas. In addition to the Lily Pool, Caldwell designed the western section of Riis Park from 1936 to 1937. Designed in the Prairie School manner, Caldwell's landscape emphasized the two natural topographies in the park—the open, flat plain at the lower east end and the wooded bluff and upland to the west. The prairie was seen in the "broad view" and the "long view," both of which were incorporated into their smaller landscapes by the use of foreground plantings of indigenous trees and shrubs.

Caldwell's years with the Park District, however, were tumultuous. As Domer writes, Caldwell "suffered great indignities all the time he was there." Caldwell was first fired from the Park District in 1939 as a result of his frustration over the politics involved with designing parks. Although he ultimately returned to the Park District, Caldwell was fired again in 1940. In all, he was fired three times by the agency during his five years there.

Of the job, Caldwell wrote, "What are we going to do with Chicago's parks? Some of them have been genuine works of art. You can still see that in Olmsted's Washington Park, a work of art, it is. People think these things can be made by some mechanistic means. No! You can only accomplish this by the spirit. You must think of a park as a work of art; otherwise you merely have a bunch of trees and logs. A park is a spiritual thing to which we respond from inside our being. Without a park as art, we are out of order. That's why the park as a work of art is so important."

While with the Park District, however, Caldwell designed and built several important Chicago park landscapes. In addition to the work at Riis Park, Caldwell did planting plans for the entire Lincoln Park extension from Montrose to Foster, including Montrose Point, where he created a broad meadow edged with hawthorns, crab apples, and native shrubs. He also designed and built Promontory Point at Burnham Park. But the Lincoln Park Lily Pool is considered to be truest to Caldwell's plan of a prairie landscape, with perennials, a small waterfall, prairie stone formations, and a lily pool at the center. The lily pool was, in Caldwell's own words in 1942, "planned as a sanctuary of the native landscape, a place sequestered from Megalopolis, the jungle of profound ugliness; a cool, refreshing, clear place of trees and stones and running water . . . a hidden garden of the people of Megalopolis."

While working on the lily pool, Caldwell met three mysterious-looking strangers. "I'd never seen them before," he told Dennis Domer, his biographer. "They looked very foreign. They spoke German. The big guy was very interested in the pavilions. He liked their touch of Frank Lloyd Wright. The little guy and the middling guy were fascinated with the wildflowers that could be planted in rocks." The men were [architect] Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, [city planner] Ludwig Hilberseimer, and [photographer] Walter Peterhans. They were the architecture faculty from the Armour Institute (later renamed the Illinois Institute of Technology, or IIT), and they later played a large role in Caldwell's success when he left the Park District for the last time in 1941.

After serving as a civil engineer with the War Department, Caldwell was invited in 1944 by Mies van der Rohe to come study and teach at IIT, and he granted Caldwell a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1945. In 1948 Caldwell completed a Master of Science in City Planning under Hilberseimer. Mies assigned Caldwell to teach the second and third year of architectural construction, the cornerstone of Mies' modern curriculum, as well as architectural history. According to the school paper, *Catalyst*, Caldwell taught these courses from 1945 to 1960 and "became a legendary professor and had a powerful influence on the post-war generation of Chicago architects."

While at IIT, Caldwell landscaped much of the school's campus, but resigned in 1960 to protest Mies' dismissal as the school's architect. From 1960 to 1964, Caldwell was a city planner with the Chicago Planning Commission, chairing a "think tank" of young architects and planners who had graduated from IIT and creating a large number of important projects and ideas. Caldwell left Chicago in 1965 to become a Visiting Professor at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia. From 1965 to 1973, he was Professor of Architecture at the University of Southern California. From 1973 until 1981, Caldwell was back in Chicago in private practice as an architect and landscape architect, designing many familiar local landscapes, including the park around Lake Point Tower.

Caldwell remains one of the most important and influential landscape architects in the twentieth century. He was awarded the Distinguished Educator Award from the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1980, a Distinguished Professor award from the Associated Collegiate Schools of Architecture, and a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from IIT in 1988. Not believing in retirement, Caldwell went back to IIT to teach from 1981 until 1996 as the Mies van der Rohe Visiting Professor of Architecture.

At the time of his death on July 3, 1998, Caldwell was working on his house and studio at Bristol, Wisconsin. He died at the age of 95, “the last of the Prairie School landscape architects,” writes Julia Bachrach. “He was giant, (a) windswept oak tree,” architect Dirk Lohan said of Caldwell in a 1988 *Chicago Sun-Times* article by Lee Bey. Lohan continues: “He was wounded and majestic. Not perfect, but solid. Solid in his convictions.” Domer adds, “Caldwell worked in the shadow of some of the most celebrated masters of design in the twentieth century. Wright, Jensen, Mies, Hilberseimer, and [California architect] Craig Ellwood had greater public stature than Caldwell, but all of them recognized his great understanding of nature, his superb drawing ability, knowledge of construction, experience in building, and capacity to envision vast urban spaces. At one time or another, they all sought to bring him into their employ or under their influence, and they fought to keep him. Some unabashedly used his work as their own. Caldwell was the hidden glue that sustained modern design, and [he has] never gotten his due.”

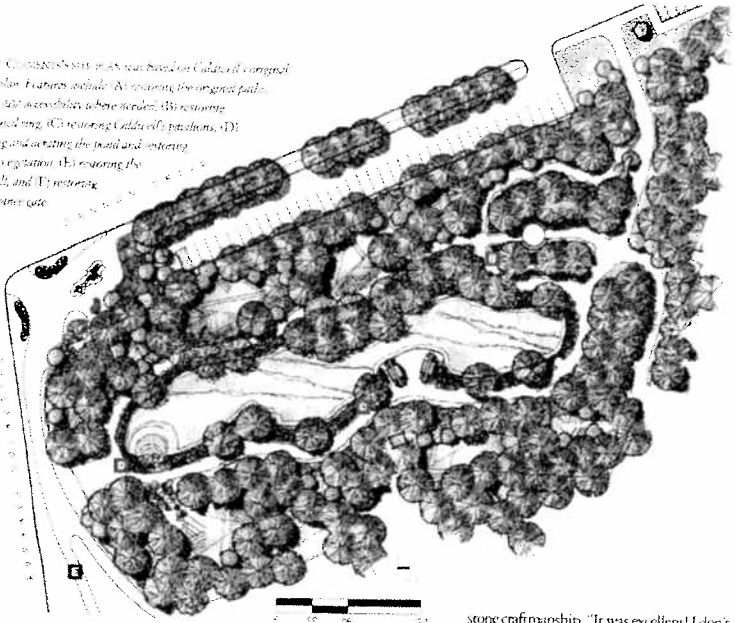
## LANDSCAPE AND SITE DESCRIPTION

In 1936, Caldwell began redesigning the dilapidated Victorian lily pool at Cannon Drive and Fullerton Parkway in Lincoln Park. His vision was that of recreating “the native landscape of the Chicago Plain,” including a lagoon resembling a prairie river cut through limestone bedrock (represented by stratified stone ledges). Grasses and lilies grow in the pool. A cascading waterfall is placed at one end to represent the source of the river, and a drinking fountain arises out of stone ledges that grace the riverbank. The pool is framed by its entrance at the north end where two great oak doors serve as the gate through a stone and wood facade.

Inside, the limestone curve of the prairie river widens to form a terrace that supports two shelters, or “pavilions,” on the west side. These serve as shelter and are joined together by a large oak beam in a style reminiscent of a Frank Lloyd Wright design. This unified pavilion, constructed of oak timbers with copper capping details, is built as a horizontal structure, “like a tree, rooted in the rock ledge.” As described by landscape architect Richard Guy Wilson, the pavilion’s “right-angled limestone walls carry intersecting pergola roofs that spread outward and upward: long horizontals and short verticals of open and closed forms.” Wilson adds that the “Lily Pool gains meaning through comparison with its surroundings: the drab and formalized regularity of the nearby zoo and park and the visual and aural assault of the surrounding city. Though removed only by a few steps from the man-made environment, the Lily Pool becomes a genuine refuge—a sequestered place of breath and quietude for man in the very midst of Chicago.”

On an adjacent hillock, a council ring is sited. This circular stone bench that symbolizes the council fires of native people in North America offers a view of the lily pool to the west and Lake Michigan to the east. Around the lily pool, wildflowers and native trees provide the “prairie,” with sun openings and small clearings that offset shaded areas, “creating a sense of mystery by . . . partially concealing what lay ahead,” in the words of Robert E. Grese, Director of Nichols Arboretum and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan.

THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION WAS BASED ON CALDWELL'S ORIGINAL 1893 PLAN. FEATURES INCLUDE: (A) RESTORING THE ORIGINAL PATH; (B) USING THE ACCESSIBLE TO BE RECREATED; (C) RESTORING A CIRCULAR RING; (D) RESTORING CALDWELL'S POND; (E) REPAIRING AND CREATING THE POND AND RESTORING NATIVE VEGETATION; (F) RESTORING THE WATERFALL; AND (G) RESTORING A MINOR GATE.



**Left: Plan for rehabilitation of the Lily Pool by landscape architects Wolff Clements and Associates, Ltd. (north entrance is to the far left).**

stone craftsmanship. "It was excellent! I don't know how they did it," he says. Without modern

**Below: Caldwell designed and built the Lily Pool to recreate "the native landscape of the Chicago Plain," including a lagoon resembling a prairie river cut through limestone bedrock (represented by stratified stone ledges).**



Caldwell felt that the perennials were especially important. His detailed drawing of the lily pool calls for groupings of crabapple (*Malus ioensis*), sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), and hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli* or *C. mollis*) underplanted with native shrub roses, viburnum, and literally tens of thousands of woodland perennials. When the Park District rejected the purchase of almost 3000 perennials, Caldwell cashed in a life insurance policy for \$300 and paid for them himself. He gathered several trucks and men and went to northern Wisconsin to collect the native plants he needed for the lily pool. According to his blueprint, these flowers (ordered February 7, 1938) included shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*), sunflowers (*Helianthus mollis* and *Helianthus laetiflorus*), columbine-leaved meadow rue (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*), phlox, iris, asters, and dianthus.

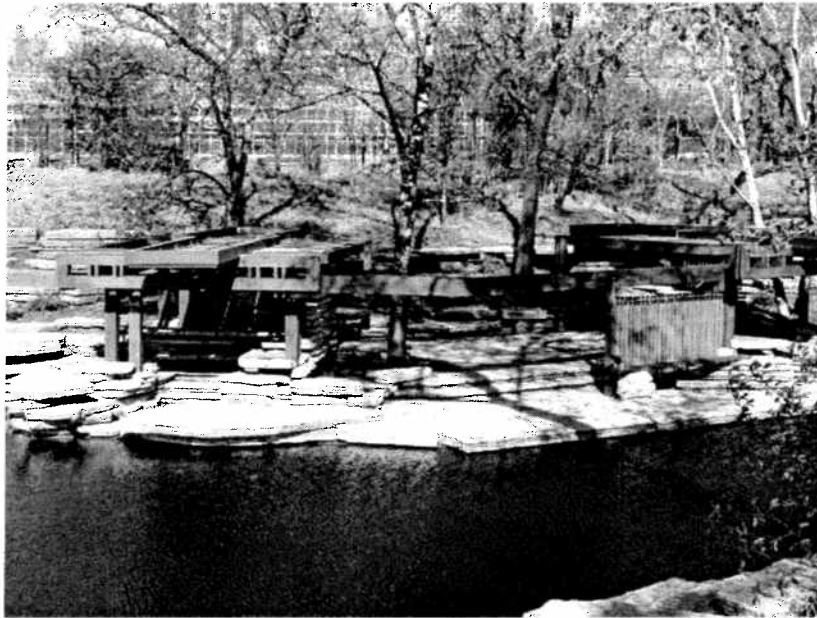
Public response to the lily pool was enthusiastic, but a variety of factors, including human traffic and a profusion of invasive plants, eventually caused significant erosion and damage to Caldwell's design. In the late 1950s, the lily pool was designated a bird sanctuary. The Lincoln Park Zoo began using the site to breed birds and feed migratory birds and it was then that it became known as the Zoo Rookery. The CPD renovated the landscape in the 1960s, but retained the site's function as a bird sanctuary. The renovation project did not address the problems with the dense tree canopy shading out most of the understory plantings. Inappropriate stone was added to check erosion, and the eastern footpath that circled the lagoon was removed. Maintenance through the years was limited at best.

Some years before he died in 1998, Alfred Caldwell returned to the lily pool, perhaps 60 years after he first created it. Weed trees and shrubs choked sunlight from the clearing, stonework was broken, and the lagoon was filled with debris. This was the place for which Caldwell had once cashed in his own life insurance policy to pay for needed perennials. Now, no flowers grew. "It's a dead world," Caldwell said, upon first sight.

In 1997, Friends of Lincoln Park and the CPD began to prepare a concept plan to preserve and enhance Alfred Caldwell's historic landscape. To implement the plan, invasive and hazardous trees were selectively removed, and more appropriate trees, shrubs, and native grasses were planted. Thousands of native prairie and woodland wildflowers have been reintroduced. Habitat has been restored and accessibility improved.

In addition, massive amounts of stone and concrete used for erosion control have been removed. An inappropriate bird tenders shack was removed. An old overlook was uncovered. Design elements such as the pavilion, waterfall, council ring, and Fullerton entrance gates have been rehabilitated. Other items designed by Caldwell for the lily pool but never implemented by the Park District because of money constraints include a light fixture installed at the gate and a water fountain located between the waterfall and the pavilion. Improved fencing surrounds the lily pool and appropriate graphics have been added.

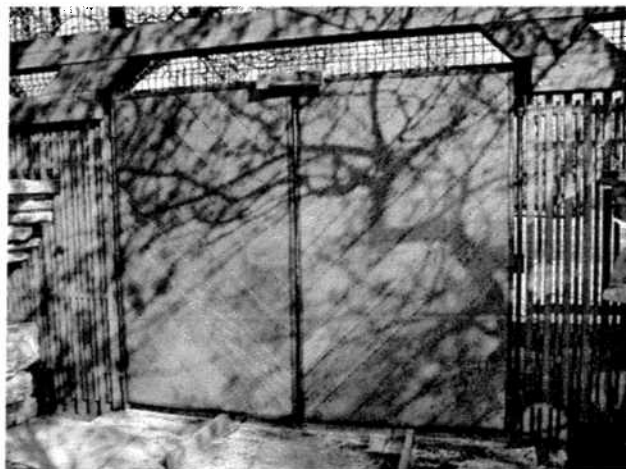
**Below:** The two shelters, or “pavilions,” on the west side of the lily pool, joined together by a large oak beam, form a horizontal structure, “like a tree, rooted in the rock ledge.”



**Right:** A council ring—a circular stone bench symbolizing the council fires of native people in North America—is sited on a hill, offering a view of the lily pool below to the west and glimpses of Lake Michigan to the east.



**Right:** The street entrance is at the north end where two great oak doors serve as the gate through a stone and wood façade.



To maintain the lily pool, a comprehensive site management plan has been developed. Friends of Lincoln Park raised approximately \$1.1 million to finance the rehabilitation, with help from the Chicago Community Trust and the Illinois First program. The CPD assumed the balance of \$2.4 million.

In May 2000 the site was respectfully renamed the “Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool,” and it was opened to the public in May 2002. Caldwell designed and constructed the lily pool to be, in his own words, “a sanctuary of the native landscape, a place sequestered from Megalopolis, . . . a cool, refreshing, clear place of trees and stones and running water—an exposition, in little, of the structure of the land.” More than half a century later, there are few other public spots in Chicago that offer the same sense of natural respite from the harshness of city life.

## Criteria for Designation

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sect. 2-120-620 and -630), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a preliminary recommendation of landmark designation for a building, structure, object, or district if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated “criteria for landmark designation,” as well as possesses a significant degree of its historic design integrity.

The following criteria should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

### ***Criterion 1: Critical Part of the City’s History***

*Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*

- The newly rehabilitated lily pool is one of the most important landscapes in Chicago, restored to Alfred Caldwell’s original design, and providing a unique respite for visitors and Chicagoans alike.

### ***Criterion 4: Important Architecture***

*Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.*

- The lily pool is one of the most intact remaining examples of Alfred Caldwell’s work for the Chicago Park District, and is considered one of his finest works and one of the truest examples landscape architecture designed in the “Prairie School,” a style for which the city is known.

### ***Criterion 5: Important Architect***

*Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.*

- Alfred Caldwell was one of the most prominent and well respected of the “Prairie School” landscape architects.

### ***Criterion 7: Unique Visual Feature***

*Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Chicago.*

- The lily pool is a significant feature of the Chicago landscape at Lincoln Park Zoo, providing a deceptively expansive and quiet respite from the bustling streets and neighborhood surrounding it, and has been a favorite with Chicagoans for over 60 years.

### ***Integrity Criterion***

*The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express its historic community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value.*

The rehabilitated one and one-half acre Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool meets the integrity criterion because of its adherence to the detailed designs of Alfred Caldwell. The workmanship of the restoration of the pavilion, the front gate, the waterfall, and the stone paths around the water bring his original design alive. The replanting of the prairie provides an open space for both the long and the broad view, so important to Caldwell's philosophy. Enhancements, such as fencing around the perimeter and the addition of a Caldwell-designed light fixture at the front gate retain the high-quality workmanship and materials originally used. The setting of the lily pool remains that of an isolated retreat from the noise of urban life in the Lincoln Park area, and it still expresses Caldwell's desire for a "cool, refreshing, clear place of trees and stone and running water."

## **SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES**

Whenever a place is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the "significant historical and architectural features" of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based on its evaluation of the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, the Commission staff recommends that the significant features be identified as:

- the lily pool and surrounding grounds, as designed by Alfred Caldwell, including the landscaping, stonework paths, council ring, waterfall, pavilion, water fountain, and entry gate.



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From Grese, "Roots of the Prairie Style (Part I)": p. 4, top & center.

From Bachrach, "Columbus Park: A Masterpiece in Landscape Design": p. 4, bottom.

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